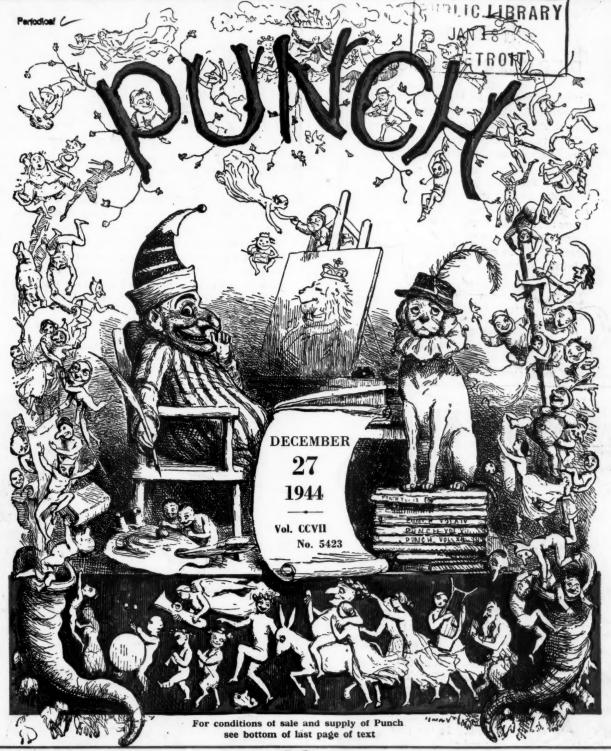
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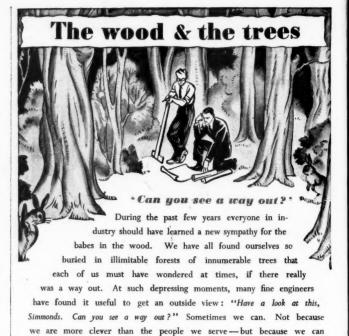


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more easily stand back from the problem. And, of course, because tack-

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A Woman Bargee? That's a man's job, you'd think, if ever there was one. Certainly it's hard work and heavy work. But there are very few men's jobs that the women of wartime Britain haven't learnt to tackle! It's because no job has daunted them, however hard or unusual it might be, that Britain today can claim the highest production per head of population of all the allied countries. We at Hoover Ltd. are proud to pay our tribute to the women war-workers of Britain, and say

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When baby is naturally fed, there is no question, no doubt in the minds of the mother, doctor or nurse that baby is having the food Nature intended. Perfectly balanced, exactly suited for baby's digestion from the hour of birth, vital and pure, these are the assured essentials of natural feeding.

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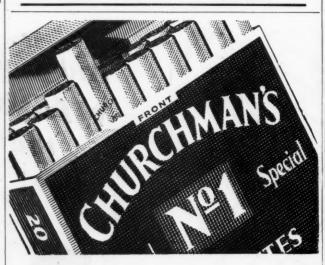
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You can't do better than give him something which for many years has been recognised by breeders and vets. as the stuff that makes a dog's life a grand life . . . Chappie Dog Mixture (prepared according to the famous original Tinker formula). So did you put a bottle in his stocking on Xmas morning, and are you seeing that he gets his regular daily dose?



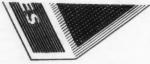
MAKE A DOG'S LIFE - A GRAND LIFE



### After duty -

15 MINUTES' PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION WITH A

CHURCHMAN'S No. 1



CHURCHMAN'S No. I CIGARETTES, 10 for 1/3, 20 for 2/6

HE 'FORGETS' HIS

# FALSE TEETH



BUT the axiom that care of dentures is as impor-tant, hygienically and socially, as care of natural teeth. He knows that all types of dental plates can be cleaned safely and efficiently with KOLYNOS DEN-

TURE POWDER. DER. He knows, too, forget" his false teeth, that he can thanks to the comfort and confidence resulting from the regular use of —

# KOLYNOS

YES ,-HE'S BUT HAS HE ANY PROSPECTS? ILKINSON'S LIQUORICE

RN & ROSS RELVINBRIDGE

FOR GIRLS AND BOYS L.B. LTD. London

#### **USE** this Medicinal Toilet Soap every day for **SKIN HEALTH & BEAUTY**

Cuticura Soap gives your skin a mild but thorough antiseptic cleansing which clears away blemishes and restores radiant youthful loveliness.

Now of War-time standard

will in peace-time return to its former pre-eminence as the most perfect Toilet Paper ever produced

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A bottle of 'Alkia' Saltrates costs 3/9 (inc. Purchase Tax). Get one from your chemist to-day and begin your spa treatment to-morrow morning.



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in the form of Flatulence, Heartburn, or general Stomach Discomfort, two of these Tablets taken after the meal (you suck them like sweets) will prevent distress. Meggeson Bismuth Dyspepsia Tablets may be obtained from qualified chemists only. Price 1/6 and 3/10, inclusive of Purchase Tax.

MEGGESON — FAMOUS FOR 148 YEARS



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(Government White Paper on Employment Policy)

SAVE FOR SECURITY THROUGH A PEARL WITH - PROFITS ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE POLICY

It would protect your dependants and secure for you at a selected age a chosen amount suited to your needs; for example

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The amount could, if desired, be utilised for the provision of a guaranteed income.

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PNH 70

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- The British Ratin Company offers a nation-wide service, based on scientific and well-

tested principles, by surveyors and operators highly skilled in the destruction of rats and mice.

● To guard against re-invasion of premises where infestation has once been brought under control, the Ratin Service includes provision for careful inspection and treatment at regular intervals.

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NO PREPARATIONS FOR SALE. SERVICE ONLY.

Write to-day and ask our Surveyor to call and explain how the Ratin Service deals with rats and mice.

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# PYREX Vacuum

Desiccator
(No. 60 with acid tray).

A sine - qua - non in the laboratory

THE drying out, under vacuum, of certain important scientific products, has become a matter of national importance. But it has been found that certain types of glass Desiccator have suffered from the weakness of being liable to collapse under conditions of high vacuum.

We have therefore designed and produced (in collaboration with the B.L.W.A.), an entirely new type of Vacuum Desiccator (No. 60, as illustrated), which has many advantages over the older types.

Being spheroid in shape, this new Desiccator will resist atmospheric pressure without risk of collapse, and without danger of damageto contents. Being made of the famous PYREX Brand Glass, with its amazingly low co-efficient of expansion (-000032), it is not subject to breakage through extremes of heat and cold; while because of this latter well-known feature, we have been able to make the Desiccator much heavier and more robust in structure than is advisable with ordinary glass.

The acid container is of the non-spill type, while the stop-cock is designed so as to turn easily under conditions of high vacuum.

This new Desiccator is just one of the hundreds of PYREX Brand laboratory specialities. As an aid to national health and hygiene, it is a sine-qua-non in the laboratory, an indispensable essential to modern scientific processes.

Ask for PYREX Brand and see that you get it!

# PYREX Brand Scientific Glassware Is made by



James A. Jobling & Company Ltd. Wear Glass Works, SUNDERLAND.

# **OPTREX**

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# eye lotion

Whether you wear glasses or not, you should have your eyes examined at regular intervals by a Qualified Practitioner.

Optrex Ltd., Perivale, Middlesex



Grenville — a sturdy VIROL boy

VIROL LIMITED LONDON, W.5

Preparing to be a Beautiful Lady



Daddy calls Margaret "The girl with the laughing eyes." They twinkle with gaiety even when her face is in repose. Margaret's eyes say that she is happy; her clear radiant complexion says that she is well cared for. Mother makes sure that Margaret washes with Pears Soap and clear water—the secret of Preparing to be a Beautiful Lady.

# PEARS SOAP

We regret that Pears Transparent Soap is in short supply just now.

A. & F. Pears Ltd.

GG 373/96

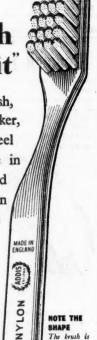
# The toothbrush that "Jumps to it"

This is a Wisdom Toothbrush, the brush that gives a brisker, certain clean. Your teeth feel fresher and there's a sparkle in your mouth. The anchored Nylon tufts "jump to it," even after months of wear. No wonder Wisdoms are in such demand.

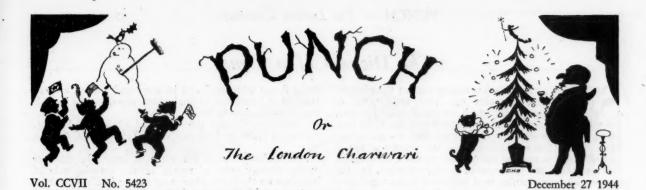


OUTLASTS
THREE
ORDINARY
BRISTLE
BRUSHES

ADE BY ADDIS LIMITED, MAKERS OF THE FIRST TOOTHBRUSH IN 1780



The brush is shaped so that all the tufts come into ac-



### Charivaria

Now that Christmas is over, those plucky parents who bought their children toy prams will have to start saving all over again for houses.

"Lungfuls of fresh air do more to remove 'cobwebs' than a dozen bottles of medicine."—Health article. Be your own vacuum-cleaner!

> Hitler is reported to be convalescing. His friends have helped him recover from the excellent health they

previously said he was in.

"Forecasting the weather is far from being an exact science," says a review. A strong body of opinion, however, supports our present system of speeded-up delayed inclemency reports.

"Most public services run miraculously," says an article. Taxis especially behave as if human beings never existed.

German soldiers now have official permission to shoot their officers if orders are given to retreat. Presumably if orders are not given to retreat they will continue to use their own judgment.

Basic English is said to be making great progress in Zanzibar schools. When it returns home we shall hardly recognize it.

"Science Will Devour Us," says a headline. What for? Does it want all its silly vitamins back?

A Manchester man on leave from Italy says that the weather has been very wet there too.

"Westminster still has a pleasant nineteenth-century air," says a weekly paper. Some of the White Papers, too, have taken on a mellow tinge.

Recent experiments suggest that thought-power can influence the fall of dice. People who cannot make up their minds without consulting the cards are therefore in a vicious circle.

The Ministry of Information is squabbling with the British Council. The latter has been suppressing stories for which the former claims exclusive burial rights.

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The W.V.S. will not "stand down" immediately after the War. Naturally some opposition was to be expected there.

"Flags will be hoisted all over London the day peace is declared," says a writer. Incredulity is expressed by members of the taxi-using public.

0

Secondhand rocking-horses were reported to be popular Christmas gifts for children. So much for the rumour that British nurseries are now completely mechanized.

> "The number of thefts of locks especially-locks of shops-in Dessuk, Lower Egypt, has increased considerably during

the past few days.

The police believe that a gang specialising in lock thefts are responsible." Egyptian paper.

Well, it's an idea.

"Beware of the man with the artificial smile," says a psychologist. This is a little hard. It may be the only one he had.





## The Dickens of a Time

YCROOGE pressed his face eagerly against the windowpane. There was only one very little piece of window-pane against which he could press his face, but you may be sure that he pressed it very hard and that his mouth watered at the rare good things he saw inside. There were plums as big as melons, and oranges as big as footballs, and dates and figs enough to stock an Arabian caravan, and fruits preserved in crystals of sugar, like the rime on a frosty morning, and bottles of brandy and wine made of black currants that winked at him saucily, and in the middle of them all a placard with a notice in big letters which said:

#### PLEASE KNOCK AT THE SIDE DOOR

But behind them all, he could see an evil face grinning at him, a face so repulsive that he only gave one look at it before he turned away.

And when he went on to the next shop, which was a poulterers', he saw a turkey as big as an ostrich.

Oh! you never beheld a turkey as big as that one! It could never have walked on two legs, that turkey, it must have been mounted on scaffolding poles that ought to have been used for the repair of bombed houses. But behind the turkey was another evil face grinning, almost more repulsive, if that was possible, than the first face.

'Come along," said the Dark Ghost of Christmas Present.

"You're merely wasting my time.

"What have I been seeing, Spirit," said Scrooge, as the

Spectral Hand pointed him onwards.
"Thou hast been seeing the Black Market," said the Spirit, "and there are men all over this town who have been tempted by it to destroy their country and to impede the War Effort of the Allied Nations. Wouldst thou see

"Just a peep," said Scrooge, and in a moment he was standing in a brightly lit room listening to the jolly laughter of his nephew Fred, and the still jollier laughter of Fred's

wife, his niece by marriage.

Oh, what fun and games they were having in that brightly lit room, partly dimmed-out from the street, and how often amid the roars of revelry the hot steaming bowl of gin and lemons went round the party. There must have been twenty of them at least in that night-club, and every now and then one of them would hold out a glass and drink a toast.

"Here's to poor old Scro-o-o-ge!" they would cry. "What a pleasant evening he must be having to-night!"

He could not repress a shudder as he looked at them. "Take me away, Spirit," he said. "Take me away. "Take me away, Spirit," he said.

I can bear no more."

Again the Ghost sped on, through the dismal streets, until they reached the melancholy tavern where Scrooge was wont to eat his melancholy dinner, and where the melancholy waiter had given him the melancholy bill of

"Is there anything on?" said Scrooge in a melancholy voice, for he saw that nearly everything on the list had been scored out with a deep black pencil-mark.

"Cold pressed beef," said the melancholy waiter, "and

cold boiled potatoes."
"Splendid," cried Scrooge, rubbing his hands. "And bring me a luke-warm bishop of rum punch to wash it

"Come orf it," said the melancholy waiter. "Don't try

to be funny with me," and he went and fetched a small tankard of a melancholy fluid which was doing its humble best to pretend to be beer.

"Hurry up!" said the Ghost of Christmas Present. "There is much to be done before I have finished with

And suddenly Scrooge found himself back in his chamber in the gloomy suite of rooms, in the lowering pile of buildings up the yard, where long ago he had sat drinking port with old Marley and discussing what gifts they would give the needy and oppressed and the sick and poor on Boxing Day.

Most of the windows were broken and pieces of cloth flapped in them and part of the ceiling had fallen down, and there was only one piece of coal on the fire, which was unlit, because merry Bob Cratchit had taken the week off to go down to Brighton with his merry family.

Scrooge tried to light the fire with his petrol lighter, but it would not work, so he gave up the attempt and sat down

at his desk.

"Get out your ledger and your pass-book and your accounts," said the Ghost of Christmas Present, when you have been through them I shall leave you, but you must expect another visitor.

The slow hours passed, the clock struck twelve, and then one, and at the strike of two the Spirit vanished. Scrooge sat dismally waiting as the shadows thickened around him, until he heard a step on the creaking stairs, and then a

loud knock on the door.

A new Spectre came in, and oh! he was the strangest apparition that could possibly be imagined, for he had a beautiful shining face, and held an olive branch in his hand, and his clothes were made entirely of the flags of the United Nations, all woven together with stars and stripes, and crowns and hammers, and crosses and sickles in red and white and blue, and round his waist was a lustrous belt composed of miniature ornaments and ships, from which shone bright jets of light that illuminated the murky room.

"Who art thou, Spectre?" said Scrooge in a quavering

voice, "and what wantest thou with me?

"I am the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come," said the "How much have you saved this year by Phantom. scrimping and paring, and going ragged and hungry, and cutting down expenses, and spending nothing, except on worthy objects, and presents and tips and allowances, and devoting all your time to working and sitting on committees, instead of carousing in taverns and making merry on Christmas fare?

Scrooge looked at his accounts and told him.

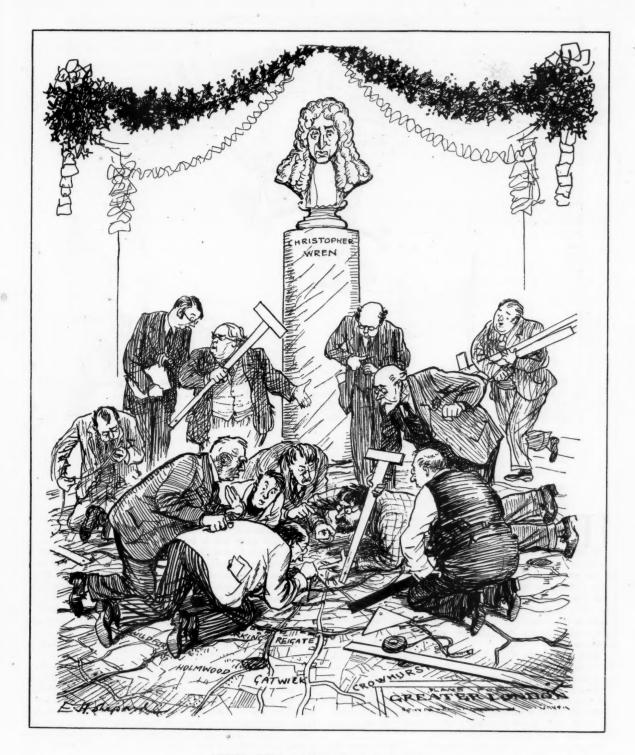
"Man of patriotism and good-will," said the Ghost, "I have come to give thee this."

And he left a small piece of paper on old Scrooge's desk,

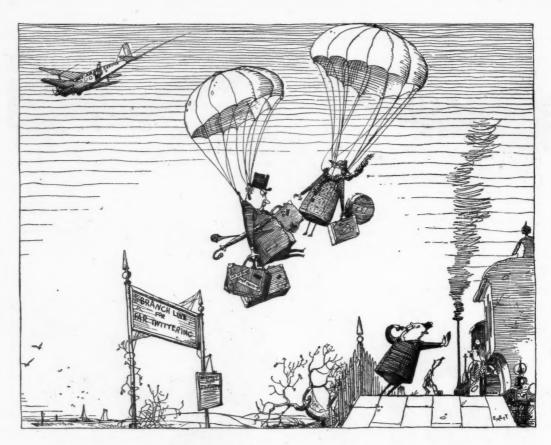
and vanished as swiftly as he had appeared.

Scrooge looked at the piece of paper. It was a Post-War Credit for several pounds. He fainted away for sheer joy, and remembered nothing until he woke up at the postman's knock in the morning, and a stream of bills, circulars, appeals and letters from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue tumbled happily helter-skelter, pell-mell, into the room.

The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply owing to war conditions are advertised in this paper should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily available for export.



NEW YEAR IRRESOLUTIONS



. might have TOLD us we should have to change . . ."

### Mumbo-Jumbo

AVE you," I asked, "a book suitable for a child of from four to six years? Preferably not about elephants.'

"Would it be for a little boy or a little girl?"
"Either," I said. "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."

The girl who was helping me (as they say) said she didn't think they had that title in stock. She was one of those girls with hair that goes shooting up to a considerable height in front and pours down in a sort of cascade at the back. This, to my mind, makes any woman look like a

"Just some book for a child," I said, adding "You look like a sea-horse." But I added it under my breath in order not to appear rude.

"This is very popular," she said. It was about elephants, and I put it down hastily and picked up another which was also about elephants, only this time they were wearing pink knitted jumpers and

shorts instead of printed cotton dresses. "Come, come," I said, not unkindly. "There must be other books. Not all children are elephant-minded. Are there no cats and dogs? Or horses or rabbits of a likeable kind such as I remember from my own nursery days? Or a story about some little old gnome living all alone in a wood might do. Anything.'

The girl gave me a book called Henrietta and Co. (I think), which had a plain cover and no pictures. But a glance inside showed me that Henrietta had a very odd nose, and she was ever so clever at using her very odd nose, not just to smell with like you and me and the Little Boy Next Door. She could pick up apples and cricket-bats and even the big humpty-tumpty that Mummy Jumbo used to sit on by the fire, and she could squirt water through it and she could-

"I say," I said, "do you realize this beastly thing is about elephants too?"

"There's been a big demand for it," she told me.

I said "There's something radically wrong here. There's a regular plague of these confounded creatures. I'm not out to spoil the children's fun. If they want elephants let them have them—in moderation. But at least let them have something remotely resembling the real animal. Look," I said, stabbing an indignant finger at a book called Gippo's Birthday Party, "what do you call that, eh? What is it?

"It's Mrs. Gippo," said the girl faintly. "It's a lady elephant."

Punch Comforts Fund, 10, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.4.

DEAR MR. PUNCH,—I read your plea for Comforts for the men at sea. Such interest in the boys in blue reflects much credit upon you. I have no heavy underpants or such-like to supply their wants. No sea-boot stockings do I own, My "woollen goods" are all outgrown. I send no scarf—I cannot knit, But something else I do, to wit: write cheques. 'Twas your alternative if I had nothing else to give. And your request in kindly verse would loosen strings of any purse.

You also say "And may we plead That he gives twice who gives with speed?" So here's one giving in a hurry By Air Mail,

Truly yours,

WILL CURRIE.

Santiago de Chile.

Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940

"Elephants," I said, "are ugly creatures with thick wrinkled skins. Their feet are large. They have small pig-like eyes and are noted for their strength and powers of endurance. They do not mince along in pink knickers carrying shopping-baskets. The colour of the animal is grey, rather than purple, and it eats hay. This creature here

"Are you being attended to?"
"No," I said to this intruder, a black-browed tallish woman. "I am attending to this young woman. This creature here, with its smooth skin, idiotic sun-hat and toe-less feet, is about as much like an elephant as a top-hat is like a-well a-

"Bowler," put in a small man, with a dog, who seemed

to be listening to our conversation.

"No, sir," I said, for I do not care to be prompted any more than the next man. "Not a bowler. A bowler is a great deal more like a top-hat than an elephant is—"
"That," he said, "is a proposition few would care to

-is like a creature in an idiotic sun-hat," I finished angrily.

The small man looked puzzled.

"Well," he began.
"Well, what?"

"Well, what does it prove? I mean is anybody maintaining that an elephant is like something in an idiotic straw hat. Because if so-

I handed him a copy of Gippo's Birthday Party, in silence.

"Why, what an extraordinary thing!" he cried. "Here is an elephant in an idiotic straw hat. So your whole case falls to the ground. Dear me! Gippo's Birthday

Party, to be sure. I wonder if my—?"
"There!" said the sea-horse, as the small man and his dog trotted away to the cash-desk. "It's the last copy, too."

"If you were wanting a kiddies' book," said the dark tallish lady who, as I suppose, was a sort of headmistress of the place, "I can recommend Tuppy Goes Fishing. It's very popular."

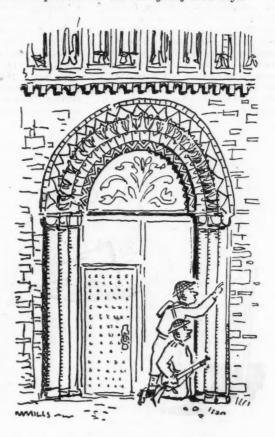
She brought me a copy and I gazed with abhorrence at the purple pachyderm on the cover, the striped cotton trousers, the utterly bogus feet. Mrs. Tabitha Twitchett, I thought sadly, never had bogus feet. She may have been a bit dressy for a cat, but she was clearly a cat underneath. And ditto Peter Rabbit. But nobody, without a wide experience of children's books, would have guessed that Tuppy was an elephant.

I pointed this out to the headmistress, who pointed out in return that Tuppy was a hippopotamus. So I bought

"Another column of Marshal Tolbukhin's army, in spite of mudlogged roads, anti-tank ditches and wrecked bridges has advanced to within 91 miles of the Australia border."—Middle East paper. Then they certainly are in the middle of some anti-tank

"Dancing with grace and humour, dancing plus economics and half-a-dozen other delightful attributes, marked the display given by the pupils of the '——' School of Dancing, ——, in the Theatre Royal last evening."—Devon paper.

Can't keep economics out of anything these days.



"Keep your eye on that niche up there. That saint in it has got a Tommy-gun."

# Awfully Arrayed

decided to let the other ranks of the Army wear collars and ties—a step that even the Hore-Belisha regime never dared take—it is clear that the time has come for a wholesale investigation into the question of Army uniforms.

At present we all wear battle-dress, which is an anomaly. Battle-dress is what art critics call functional; it has a little outside pocket at the top of the right trouser-leg to keep your chocolate in, and a big outside pocket on the left trouser-leg which can be removed to line the inside of the collar; it fastens with twenty-nine buttons, so that you can lose a few and never notice it; and, like the sailor's jersey, it provides a great incentive to fitness by its merciless exposure of the corpulent. Battledress, especially when dyed in gay crimsons and greens and blues, is an ideal medium for dressing dance acts, and no doubt Hartnell and Schiaparelli will perpetuate the design for long after the war. But it is not equally well suited to every branch of the Army.

In the Western Desert, for instance, experience proved that the most practical uniform for the cavalry was a sweater the length of a frock-coat, a pair of corduroy slacks, suède boots with crêpe rubber soles, and a brightly-coloured scarf. This, so cavalrymen

say, was an ideal working rig; though it is hard for a mere infantry soldier to see exactly why, except that it made it so easy for them to pose, on the approach of one of Rommel's patrols, as a baby camel until it had gone away.

But some more fundamental change is wanted now; something more appropriate to each arm of the Service. Let the infantry go on wearing battle-dress (since they fight the battles), with a collar and tie if so desired—even a coloured regimental tie as favoured by some of the Canadian regiments; let the cavalry continue to brave the wrath of the Provost-Marshal with their rainbow stocks; but at the same time, let a plea be entered for R.E.M.E., the Military Police, the Pay Corps, the chaplains, and many others of the less spectacular troops

spectacular troops.

The Military Police already have a distinctive head-dress; but in these sensitive days it is doubtful if it is the ideal one. No soldier ever speaks of a "redcap," but of a "—— redcap"; and a highly-placed policeman at H.Q. Eighth Army once remarked that the only real use he had for his vermilion cap-cover was to rub out the chinagraph marks on his map. Now on the other hand, the Metropolitan Police are, by the common consent of all our visitors, "wonderful" in their appearance as in everything else. What more

sensible, then, than to equip the C.M.P. with a helmet of similar design to theirs? Carried out in khaki serge and blazoned with a brightly polished badge, it should uphold the dignity of military law in many a Berlin bierstube in the days to come.

Caps in general are, as a matter of fact, the Army's weak spot. The prewar stiff cap was smart but not battle-worthy; the fore-and-aft cap which replaced it was not at all smart and fell off after half a dozen brisk about-turns or fifty yards at the double. The cap, G.S., now in vogue, which seems to have been copied from the undress uniform of the Papal Guards, has the great disadvantage that it can be worn in every shape from the halo to the coster's cap, from the sublime to the gorblimey, and no two men ever put it on the same.

The cap, however, provides the ideal field for the reviser of uniforms. The tall white caps of the Army Catering Corps; the black field-service mortarboards of the Army Educational Corps; the grave purple of the Biretta, G.S., worn by the Chaplains' Department, and the noble army of boaters for the personnel of Field Butcheriescould the Adjutant-General (or whoever it is) resist them? Let him consider well how General Alexander with a scarlet cap-band and Air-Marshal Tedder with a peakful of "scrambled eggs," to say nothing of Monty with an Australian slouch-hat bearing a complete ring of badges, defeated Kesselring and Rommel who—to judge from the photographs-could boast nothing more decorative on their hats than a sort of steel zip-fastener where the chin-strap ought to be.

R.E.M.E., of course, must wear overalls. Whatever you give them they always do wear overalls, anyway, so why not put the thing on a proper footing? Overalls, after all, are not essentially drab; there was a boy working in a garage in the Abbey Road before the war who wore a suit of snow-white dungarees any debutante might envy. Probably R.E.M.E. would not find that the ideal design; but something with a tailored waist and a monogrammed pocket (and indeed a collar and tie if you like) could easily be devised.

The Educational Corps, besides their mortarboards, should be issued with gowns, since a mortarboard worn with battle-dress would just look silly. By the same token, the R.A.M.C. should be put into black Anthony Eden hats,



"It was a sort of powder—I mixed it with water and when I opened the oven door—there it was!"



"By the way, did you get anything worth having in your stocking this Christmas?"

black coats and striped trousers; and the Royal Army Pay Corps into blue serge suits and bowler-hats, care being taken to evolve a design different from that worn by senior officers who have "taken felt." Field Security units will of course be dressed in cloaks and daggers.

A difficulty arises with A.M.G.O.T. They combine the functions of magistrates, employment agents, caterers, interpreters, haulage contractors, and general angels of mercy; but a uniform appropriate to all that is hard to imagine. A judicial wig, a napkin over the arm, a pencil behind the ear, motoring gauntlets and a pair of wings all seem to be indicated.

Should any prosaically minded people protest that this is merely fiddling—as it were—while Cologne burns, it need only be pointed out that the sole action necessary at this stage is the publication of the appropriate Army Council Instruction. The clothes themselves (like the collars and ties for the other ranks) will continue to be "not available" until long after most of us have gone back to lounge suits and soft hats, which we shall have the privilege of buying for ourselves.

## Is They?

O-day, when out to take
My morning stroll and "slake
My thirst in amber draft,"
Scribed roughly on a wall
I saw this casual scrawl,
Parsnips is daft.

This is to me a new
And startling point of view;
The parsnip, as a fact,
Impresses one as dull,
Emotionally null
And nowise cracked.

Yet plainly here we find
One of decided mind,
A man, one may suppose,
Skilled in the gardener's craft,
And if he calls them daft
No doubt he knows.

It may be—none can say— Lugged from its natural clay Some inner passion flies, Some hidden fires take wing, A secret wantoning Grows numbed and dies.

But in the private night
When the high moon's brave light
Quickens their native soil,
When no rude fork is there
To hoick them to the air
To stew or boil:

Then, when all quiet things sleep,
What maddened parsnips leap
Up from the shaken earth,
How jocund is the spree,
What vegetable glee,
What parsnip mirth.

Strange. Yet his tale runs pat.

He briefly states in that
Dogmatic way of his,
Parsnips is daft, and though
We may not wholly know,
Perhaps they is. Dum-Dum.

# And No Birds Sang.

HE young flight-lieutenant sitting by himself on the mail-bags in a corner of the hangar was cold and dirty. So was I. The faithful Dakota which, but for the habitual opaqueness of the Northern European atmosphere, would already have ferried us back to England, was a blur in the mist covering the airfield. The young man was fiddling in an exasperated way with some small object. Seldom had I felt more stoutly of the Boatand-Train school of thought, and I went across to him and said so.

"With a short journey like this," I said, "it would be nice to know to within, say, a couple of days when one was going to arrive."

"Boat-and-Train?" he snapped.
"Bicycle-and-Canoe is good enough
to beat winter flying in Europe. If
airline companies want to avoid bankruptcy after the war they'll put half
their capital into the waiting-room."

He had on his upper lip a yellow growth which the Barbers' Guild would certainly have had to pass to the Royal Horticultural Society for expert classification. It was weighed down with icicles.

"Can I help?" I asked.

"Not unless you're clairvoyant," he replied. "What you are face to face with is one of those stark little tragedies of perversity to which the human race is particularly subject, tragedies which are none the less poignant for their horrible simplicity."

"Tell me," I said.
"In this bag of mine is a bottle of

brandy."
"Ah," I said, and I confess I was cheered by this information, for the young man's face was set in generous

"It's a Fine of 1880-something, and when I assure you it is first-rate brandy you may take it I am not overstating the case. The bottle is full to within two inches of the neck."

"Good," I said, and I meant it. Peering into freezing fog hour after hour has one advantage, any doubts about what you want out of life disappear. "I hope you haven't passed this gen to those types over there?" and I pointed to a dismal study in still-life at the other side of the hangar.

"Certainly not," he answered. "Now this brandy would be at our disposal but for one small obstacle. I also bought a combination lock yesterday for my bag and for the life of me I can't remember to what combination I set it." "You do not feel like performing a small operation on the bag?" I asked. "I could provide a suitable scalpel."

"I do not. The bag was given me, by a girl called Clara, whose eyes are like neon-lights."

It seemed to me a silly thing to say, but not knowing Clara I didn't tell him so. Instead I said:

"You must surely have written this combination down somewhere?"

"I remember writing it on a tablecloth very late last night."

"Well, we have only to find the table-cloth," I said triumphantly.

"The table-cloth is about two hundred kilometres from here, somewhere in the hinterland, in a café called the 'Bon Repos.' But it may equally have been called the 'Trois Faisans' or the 'Gentille Alouette.' You can forget it, anyway."

"You honestly haven't a clue?"
"I was in no condition to have a

clue, old boy."

"How does this monstrous device work?"

"There are three letters followed by four numbers."

I lit my pipe and took a turn through the hangar. I was not cheered to note that the Dakota was no longer visible at all.

"I have it!" I cried. "What is Clara's telephone number?"

"MOY 2255. I've tried that. The brandy is still in the bag."

"I naturally hesitate to press you on what is obviously a delicate subject, but is this Clara what you might call the sole cardiac focus?"

"Absolutely, old boy. You ought to see her."

"Has she a car?"
"CAD 4242. No go."

I thought for a bit while he did a bit of fog-peering on his own.

"Do the milestones in our rude island story mean much to you?" I asked...

"I've tried BOH 1066, if that's

what you mean."
"Well, try SAP 1588," I suggested.
"Why SAP?"

"Spanish Armada Pranged, of course."

"The staff of life is still in the bag."
"Try BOT 1805 and BOW 1815."

"My foot, twice."

"Well, then, CLR 1846."
"CLR?"

"Corn Laws Repealed," I hissed.
"Where were you dragged up?"

"Carshalton. But I've tried mother's phone number."

"What's your name?"

"Windlesham."

"Age?"
"Twenty-eight."

"Right. It's WIN 1916."

"It isn't, old boy."

"Oh, hell!" I cried. "We've had it."
We shut our eyes and there was a long silence. I suddenly felt very hungry.

"Have a good dinner at the 'Bon Repos,' if it wasn't the 'Gentille Alouette'?" I asked.

"Wizard. Real pâté and a duck. Marché noir as the driven snow, of course. And a Camembert."

"What did you float it in? Chateauneuf?"

"Burgundy. Rather good burgundy."

"How good?" I demanded greedily. Starved and parched, I felt.

"Really good. Chambertin '29. As a matter of fact it wasn't quite as velvety as—"

I sprang to my feet with a loud cry. "Don't waste time burbling!" I shouted. "I only wish we had two glasses."

The flight-lieutenant's face froze as if he had been hit with a sledge-hammer.

"CHA 1929!" he whispered. "CHA 1929! Bang on!"

I watched his blue fingers fumble again with the lock. I watched it slide easily apart. I watched him dip into the bag. I watched his intelligent features register eager anticipation, then astonishment, then leaden grief.

"We've had it after all! That dark brute at the 'Bon Repos' must have palmed the bottle."

"It couldn't be sort of lurking anywhere—under your spare bodice, for instance?" I asked, miserably.

"Fine of 1880-something cannot lurk."

At that moment the Tannoy blared the surprising news that the front was passing on the other side and we would take off in ten minutes. The mist had mysteriously cleared, leaving our Dakota faithfully waiting, as Dakotas faithfully do.

"I suppose we'd better fly to England," I said.

"I suppose so," said Windlesham, heavily. Eric.

0 0

"Here is Chopin's 'Invitation to the Waltz.'"—Wireless announcer.

As generally accepted by Weber.

# Not So Silly

A Child's Guide to Parliament-II

ELL, Rich-ard and Iv-y, as I was say-ing, near-ly ev-er-y-thing a-bout Parl-ia-ment is thought to be ver-y sill-y by the peop-le (who are fight-ing for it). The Mem-bers are sill-y, and the things they do, and ev-en the place in which they do it is sill-y al-so. Which is

prett-y bi-zarre.

Now, Iv-y-stop chew-ing, Rich-ard -there are two Hous-es of Parl-iament-and some clev-er peop-le think that ev-en that is sill-y, for they say that one would be en-ough. But these peop-le are sill-ies them-selves. Well. both the Houses, the House of Lords and the House of Comm-ons, meet in The Roy-al Pal-ace of West-min-ster, which is ver-y hand-y for the Un-derground and the Riv-er. That, they say, was the i-de-a of the great Duke of Well-ing-ton, who said that if Parl-ia-ment met in Hyde Park it might eas-i-ly be surr-ound-ed by an an-gry mob, but with the Riv-er at their backs the Mem-bers would al-ways have a stra-teg-ic re-treat. That re-mains to be seen. Much will de-pend on the num-ber and speed of the vess-els a-vail-a-ble to the fleeing leg-is-lat-ors.

The Pal-ace, al-though it looks as if it had been built by the Goths, is on-ly a hun-dred years old. Ev-er-y year, you re-mem-ber, on No-vem-ber the fifth, there is great re-joic-ing in the Lond-on streets, with fire-works and bon-fires. Rock-ets are sent up, and coll-ect-ions of mon-ey are made, in mem-or-y of a man call-ed Guy Fawkes, who att-emp-ted, with-out suc-cess, to blow up the Brit-ish Parl-ia-ment. (Ev-er-y man in Amer-i-ca, by the way, is call-ed a guy in his hon-our.) But the odd thing is this. In 1834 the whole place (ex-cept for West-min-ster Hall and the Clois-ters) was suc-cess-ful-ly burn-ed down by a Brit-ish work-man. But not on-ly are there no cel-e-brations on the ann-i-vers-ar-y of that exploit, we do not ev-en know his name; and, so far as I know, no Am-er-i-cans have been nam-ed aft-er him. Why did he burn the place? Well, he was de-stroy-ing old taxtall-ies, or Ex-cheq-uer re-ceipts, in the Vict-or-i-a Tow-er, and carr-i-ed a-way by his prop-er en-thu-si-asm, he ov-er-did it. It was per-haps the most spir-it-ed pro-test a-gainst taxa-tion in our hist-or-y; though some peop-le think that he went too

Well, that was in 1834. Aft-er a lot

of arg-u-ment it was de-cid-ed to have a place for Parl-ia-ment a-gain and Sir Charles Barr-y e-rect-ed the present ed-if-ice in 1842. You will find his stat-ue hidd-en a-way at the bott-om of the Comm-itt-ee stairs. The Pal-ace smells like a church and has a great man-y stairs, stone floors, and swing doors. The poor Mem-bers spend man-y man-hours po-lite-ly hold-ing op-en the swing doors for each oth-er, or dash-ing them danger-ous-ly in each oth-ers' fac-es: and they march for miles each day ab-out the stone floors, which grad-uall-y wears them out. It is not by an-y means the sed-ent-ar-y occ-u-pat-ion it is made out to be, and the mort-al-it-y is ver-y high. Pers-onall-y, I think the best thing in the whole build-ing is the wood-carv-ings of fish and game and fruit in the Members' Din-ing-room which I will show you one day. Dear litt-le bunn-ies and pheas-ants and salm-on - you would al-most say that the fur and feath-ers-and fins-were re-al.

On May 10th, 1941, the Germ-ans burn-ed down the Cham-ber of the House of Comm-ons. On the same night they dropp-ed some sort of a bomb through the roof of the Cham-ber of the House of Lords, but it did not go off: so, you see, they near-ly got a right and left. Nev-er-the-less, I suppose that, till the end of time, we shall go on cel-eb-rat-ing the pun-y eff-orts

of Mr. G. Fawkes.

By the way, you may have not-iced Big Ben, which is at the north end of the Pal-ace. Yes, the north end, Rich-ard. Man-y peop-le think that the Thames at that point runs east and west: in fact they would bet a-bout it. But they are wrong. Big Ben, Richard, is not, as man-y peop-le think, the name of the Tower (that is the Clock Tower), or the clock; it is the name of the big bell weigh-ing thir-teen and a half tons. But why the bell is call-ed that I can-not tell you, for it was cast by the first Lord Grim-thorpe, whose name was Ed-ward. A Sir Benjam-in Some-bod-y comes in somewhere, but I for-get where. Far-ther down the Riv-er is the Shell Mex Build-ing which is the pal-ace of Oil. That has a big clock too; and the funn-y men call it Big Ben-zine.

Twice, at least, one of the fac-es of Big Ben has been pitt-ed by frag-ments of an en-e-my pro-ject-ile. So you see to what depths of in-fam-y the Germans will desc-end. Or per-haps it was the I-tal-i-ans. I had in-tend-ed to deal with the Con-stit-ut-ion to-day but there is not time now. So let me say a litt-le more about the build-ing.

about the build-ing.

The Commons' Cloak-Room is in the old Cloist-ers, which were also dam-ag-ed by our un-scrup-ul-ous foe. Ev-er-y Mem-ber (in peace-time) has a peg with his name un-der it. Hang-ing from each peg is a length of pink tape with a bight, or loop, at the end of it. You will nev-er guess what that is for, Rich-ard. I will give you three guess-es. Yes, Iv-y, you have guess-ed right the first time. How clev-er girls are. Those loops are put there in case we wish to leave our swords be-fore we go up to the Cham-ber. Now that is the sort of thing that some peop-le call sill-y. But your Unc-le Hadd-ock thinks it is rath-er fun. It is more than that. It re-minds the Mem-bers ev-er-y day that Parl-iament began at a time when men were more in-clined to de-cide things by fight-ing than by talk-ing; so that its birth was all the more cred-it-ab-le. Some of the low-er na-tions whose cit-i-zens still fight each oth-er a good bit might look up-on these loops with prof-it.

Then, when I show you ov-er the Cham-ber, you will see a narr-ow rug or mat which lies be-fore the front bench-es on eith-er side. A Mem-ber speak-ing from those bench-es must not put so much as the toe of his boot ov-er the out-er edge of that mat. If he does there will be cries of "Ord-er! Ord-er!" which is ver-y dis-con-cert-ing, some-times, be-cause the poor Mem-ber does not know who has done what. For all he knows some-one else has off-end-ed, or he has said the wrong thing, or his upp-er dent-ure has fall-en out. The point of this Rule is that no man while speak-ing must be with-in sword's length of the fell-ow on the oth-er side of the gang-way. That, a-gain, may sound sill-y, Rich-ard, for we do not oft-en take our swords in-to the Cham-ber. But it is not so sill-y as it sounds. For ev-en in that se-date ass-em-bly rough pass-ions do ar-ise, and, if we were all-ow-ed to roam a-bout while speak-ing who knows but some rude int-er-rupt-er might get a clip on the jaw. In-deed, I have seen it done.

In war-time, by the way, we have no names und-er our pegs. This is to show that Mem-bers can be as tough as an-y-one, and in the comm-on cause we do not care who takes whose hat.

A. P. H.



"Good! you're just in time to turn the tide of battle!"

#### **MDCCCCXLIV**

(From "Annus Mirabilis")

- 22. With puissant arms, account'd for the fight, To secret ports the men and ships repair; And arm'd with thunder, in avenging flight, The winged squadrons take the yielding air.
- 23. Urg'd by foreknowledge of impending Fate Unresting Rumour roams the busy land; Impatient now, th' expectant soldiers wait Their mighty General's august command.
- 24. At last, great Marlborough's scion gives the word Which marks the fateful enterprize begun; Through magick engine is the message heard: From lip to lip the living accents run.
- 25. The docks, by MULBERRY's art prefabricate, Receive through leaden hail the ships' advance: Undaunted, they disbark their warlike freight, And tedious battle frights the coast of France.
- But on a sudden, lo! the foeman yields,
   And humbl'd France regains her ancient pride;

- The flag of Freedom waves o'er Belgium's fields, And swift through Holland pours the rolling tide.
- 27. Re-martiall'd then in stern resisting line, The fiery hosts their onward rush delay, But still unsleeping by the watchful Rhine The Lion, crouching, waits his final prey.
- 28. Meantime with hideous roar and tail of fire From deadly ramp the swift avenger flies; O'er London Town and many a southern shire Unquiet Death parades the summer skies.
- 29. Through peaceful streets sad Ruin stalks again; In anxious Care the days and nights revolve—Yet Peril strikes a People's heart in vain, Nor flying Terrour breaks their stern resolve.
- 30. But see, from lonely plough and busy mart
  The civil soldiers to dismissal come,
  Whom regal George commends for noble part,
  And crown'd with Honour sends in Triumph
  home . . .



EARNING HIS KEEP

"If a German can work on my land, why can't he repair my bombed house?"

### At the Play

"PETER PAN" (STOLL)

"The cleverness of me!" cries Peter in an early strain of strutting chanticleer. His creator—the Mr. James Barrie of the year 1904—might well have uttered a triumphant crow when the last line of Peter Pan was written. The play, he saw, moved with the ordered irresponsibility of the best make-believe. Nothing from the nursery shelf was missing. There were

braves and buccaneers and adventuring children, a streak of sentiment and an heroic flourish, noonday comedy and midnight moonshine, and high above all the figure of *Peter Pan* himself, boy eternal, Barrie's new Ariel of the

nursery.

That was forty years ago. The fantasy, now in honoured middle age, is far from petering out. It does not condescend to the children or lose itself in a smother of gauze and tinsel. Approaching the playroom as a cheerful ambassador, BARRIE proposes an hour or two with the Darlings and a friend of theirs who might be worth meeting. Once the game's afoot none can keep it going more inventively. A passage now and then may edge into mawkishness, but the Never-Never Land and its . people are as shiningly right as they were in 1904. Pirates, redskins, wolves -the best of company! No place here for what

Kipling's Puck, a strong individualist, called a "painty-winged, wand-waving, sugar - and - shake-- your - head set of imposters." (Peter, undoubtedly, would have joined Sir Huon on that flight to

Hy-Brasil.)

At the Stoll an eight-year-old critic announced to the theatre at large that he remembered it all from last Christmas, and it was jolly good and well worth seeing again. The only thing he found hard to credit, as a veteran playgoer, was the success of Hook's trick with the tom-toms. The Lost Boys (we gathered) should have had an answer for it. Still—with much respect—it was lucky that Hook's plan went through. Otherwise we might have missed the rough-and-tumble

(hornpipe thrown in) on board the Pirate Ship, with Captain James Hook of Eton and Balliol at his most robustious, Smee—the Nonconformist pirate—at his sewing-machine, the Lost Boys in chains and slavery, and Peter on a one-man commando raid. It is here that Miss Frances Day, an actress whom few would have imagined in these surroundings, is at her most confident. She is not a complete Peter. The wistfulness and far-away quality—once so memorably suggested by Miss Jean Forbes-Robertson—quite elude her: we are uneasily



ROUGH WEATHER FOR PIRATES

Captain Hook . . . . . . Mr. Walter Fitzgerald Peter Pan . . . . . . . . Miss Frances Day

conscious that the boy who wouldn't grow up is, in fact, both grown-up and sophisticated. But, as Polonius said in effect, who would expostulate why Day is Day? Within the limits of the actress's personality the part is loyally sustained. The new Peter is always a gallant fellow, eager and agile. Miss Day has the proper glow in the defiance of Hook, a pleasant aerial grace in the leadership of the flying squad, and the correct sincerity in the appeal for Tinker Bell (no sugar-plum fairy, this), who recovers as rapidly as ever.

The year's Captain Hook, that heart of darkness, black sheep of Balliol, is everything he should be as a curse of the Caribbean, or the Never-Never

Land's equivalent. Mr. Walter Fitzgerald, like King Gama, boasts an irritating chuckle and a celebrated sneer and he has a nice line in gloating. (Hear him proclaim "This is me Hour of Triumph.") Trembling we listen while the fourpence-coloured, oily-curled scoundrel, one of the last enchantments of the Restoration, reflects on the possibilities of a R-rich, Damp Cake, pours Peter a dram of poison, raps out "Sdeath and oddsfish!" or "Scissors and paste!", meditates on the pleasures of plank and cat, and shudders as the faithful

crocodile clocks-in. Hook should have swung at Execution Dock; his end is painfully ignominious.

As usual, the Captain has his Christmas hook-up with Mr. Darling, notorious kennelman and warning to parents: here, too, Mr FITZGERALD enjoys himself briskly. The year's Wendy is also a prize. Overplayed, this young woman can embarrass, but Miss ANGELA WYNDHAM Lewis brings to her an altogether winning tenderness and serenity. (Arnold Bennett, one of Peter Pan's admirers, remarked in his journal that BARRIE was preoccupied with the "Everymother-theme. body wants to be mothered even Smee-except the braves and some of the pirates. The play is nearly all mothering. Even the dog is a mother-nurse.") Any mother, we feel, would have warmed to the elderly and ineffectual pirate Smee. now decorated by the bright eye and the Dublin lilt of Mr. ARTHUR SIN-

CLAIR. His fellow-pirate Starkey (Mr. KENNETH KOVE) is the soul of genteel

gloom.

Among the rest Miss Phyllis Joyce is a rather pale Mrs. Darling and Mr. IAN HARDY'S Slightly an agreeable parrot; the other Lost Boys are in sound pillow-fighting form and may possibly be asked to give a hand to the Ministry of Works in the post-war construction of prefabricated houses.

Last, a notice of *Peter Pan* would be unfinished without a word for the Crocodile and its gently-smiling jaws, and the annual obeisance to that old friend and elusive actress Miss Jenny Wren, for ever *Tinker Bell*.

J. C. T.

# Toller Applies

To General Committee, Little Soaring Golf Club

IRS,—With respect to your advertisement for a Secretary in the South Wimshire Times, I regret this application will arrive after the date laid down, but you will doubtless appreciate the delay of correspondence both ways from Holland, while in addition Lt Stookley, whose aunt sends him the paper every week, is in the habit of retiring with it into corners and indulging in nostalgic orgies with Wimshire market prices and the progress of the town rugger side.

The preference expressed for an ex-officer will be satisfied by myself on demobilization unless I have by then resigned claim to the description as the result of continued inability to prevent the Troop from hanging vehicles with German helmets, flags, etc., contrary to Sqn orders; an attraction to souvenirs now extended to a newly-captured Volkswagen from which I am unable to part my batmangunner, this little car being cached in a wood during present operations and causing its owner such anxiety that his powers of concentration even under fire are impaired to the point of forgetting the whereabouts of parked chewing-gum; so the turret is a continual danger and one day, I am convinced, will become stuck and refuse to traverse.

Experience as Assistant Adjt during a quieter period of the war has taught me much of the secretarial side of life, such as the importance of having everything in triplicate, while the same post gave me opportunity of dealing with difficult situations liable to arise even in a golf club; one example occurring when, in the absence of the Adjt, I was in the midst of a difficult morning which had already amassed in the Orderly Room a purple father who was under the impression we had an arrangement for introducing recruits to feminine members of the local Hippodrome, a Naafi manageress who was under the impression her weekly coal allowance was publicly auctioned to the highest bidder to enable the Adit to smoke expensive Turkish cigarettes in the cedar cabinet he purchased to impress reporting officers, and a Polish padre who was under an impression which we were still in the process of elucidating when the telephone rang to say there was a horse in the gymnasium.

This particular situation, although correctly dealt with by means of messages to secure identifying marks, to secure the actual animal with gymnasium skipping-rope and prevent him swinging on the bars or frolicking with the gymnasium horse, was unfortunately made more difficult by District. to whom the matter was reported by myself by telephone, ringing back that evening to startle the duty officer into action on the theory there was a corpse in the gymnasium, my message having been misheard and the duty officer being in the midst of a thriller in which this was an every - page occurrence.

Situations of this sort are presumably of a higher horse-power than any likely to obtain in golf-club life, and I should therefore be able to handle isolated incidents of members who are reported as partaking in fisticuffs on the 18th green, who dislike the shape of bunkers I design or who are blackballed for kicking their drives out of the rough as the result of a camouflaged police patrol which I suggest for cleaning up the game; this being especially necessary among women players who here have a French logic which on one occasion led my sister to kick her own ball out of a bunker while treading my aunt's into the sand—although this admittedly was subsequent to a tiff on the family matter of my Uncle Lionel who lowers tone by patronizing pier slot-machines and drinking with old salts who sell him fish which he brings back and offers my aunt at midnight.

Should this experience and this sample of my intended work not be deemed to fulfil the conditions of "secretarial knowledge," I have before the war actually on two occasions been a secretary: firstly as the outcome of Miss Sheila Winterboom's posting to President of the local Drama League with my own election in her place as secretary of the Shakespeare Reading Society while I was absent with a bout of influenza, the news not contributing to my immediate recovery as the position was one of endless anxiety since one duty was to extirpate all indelicate insinuation from plays and all possible personal come-backs; this last proving necessary when Miss Winterboom, who must tip twenty stone, had electrified a village hall with the intelligence that her little body was aweary of the great world.

The secretarial experience gathered in this position included the expulsion from the society of an eccentric old gentleman who took upon himself to do "noises off" behind sofas and in corners until, while gargling in imitation of the river during the description of Ophelia's death, he choked violently and was taken to a nursing home where he gave all the nurses names of Shakespeare characters and sued the Society for breach of contract.

Another difficulty was the variation in attendance between houses providing buns and those providing sherry and small impaled sausages, resulting one evening in an attempt to read Othello with myself, a retired fishmonger and his co-opted niece, aged thirteen; such situations, however, calling for social tact which should be useful in golf circles as should also my acquired ability, gained as secretary of a cricket club, to fix matches so as to obviate such early errors as the unfortunate passing on the road of two char-à-banes containing opposing teams each aiming to play on the other's ground.

In conclusion I am aware of the traditions of golf, its part in pre-war national life and in the future remoulding of civilian morale, in which work a golf-club secretary with the patience and sympathy to talk with members over refreshment in the evening can, I am convinced, wield great influence for good in the matter, too, of financial reconstruction as I will have access to shares of several concerns of promise, contemplated by officer members of this mess, such as the manufacture of the Belgian-type projecting stove.

Should the green slopes of the Little Soaring fairways have been ploughed up for vegetables, I have qualifications for stopping their growth, having been Unit Gardening Officer back in England.

Yours faithfully,

J. TOLLER, Lt.

B.L.A.

Rodent Operatives' Corner

0

"Working Mousekeeper required by young unmarried clergyman."

Advt. in Belfast paper.

0

#### This Week's Vicious Circle

"This caustic criticism may be discussed at the next meeting of the Critics Circle. vice procedure shall be transmitted to the Government."—Press journal.



"Yes, but the last time I pulled the plug out it woke him up."

#### Our Booking-Office

(By Mr. Punch's Staff of Learned Clerks)

#### Good People and Others

MRS. MARY AGNES HAMILTON has been in public life since leaving Newnham before the last war, as a political journalist, a Labour M.P., a delegate to the League of Nations, a lecturer in the States, a Governor of the B.B.C., and a biographer of Ramsay MacDonald, Beatrice and Sidney Webb, and Arthur Henderson. For some reason, perhaps because as a progressive and an idealist she shrinks from the appearance of egotism, she presents her record of all these experiences as though it were a tribute to her friends. Remembering My Good Friends (CAPE, 12/6) is the title she gives her book, which, she says, is not intended to be about herself but about "the good people I have known." Of these there are certainly enough, and as in nine instances out of ten Mrs. Hamilton puts in no shadows to throw their virtues into relief, it is not surprising that on the last page she sighs despondently-"One can be clever, at small expense, about the bad: one is terribly apt to be at best woolly and at worst namby-pamby about the good." Fortunately, her benevolence is not unintermittent; her political idealism has had many shocks, and when she remembers these her style becomes more pointed and forceful. In perhaps her most interesting chapter she describes how she and her friends at Cambridge believed in a world order of which their lives were somehow to be part. "We did not talk about religion, mainly because our belief in progress and human perfectibility was sufficient; full of faith in man, we did not need faith in God." Her

heroes were therefore politicians, Liberal and then Labour, each for a time a Moses leading Israel to the Promised Land, and each in due course a subject for disillusioned retrospect. There is nothing woolly or namby-pamby in her memories of Sir John Simon, or Ramsay MacDonald, and though her admiration of the Webbs is still strong, and she speaks of their "high, ardent, idealistic enthusiasm," the impression she conveys of them is not unduly endearing. She visited them about the biography which she was writing. Mrs. Webb took her for a walk ("the country was, somehow, not their natural setting; they went for walks out of a sense of duty"); and Mr. Webb, regarding her in rather bird-like fashion, dismissed her with "No intimacy, I beg." The present war has changed Mrs. Hamilton's view of religion, and her final conclusion is that "a Socialism which leaves unexplored the question whence values originate leaves out the essential element."

#### Songs After Sunrise

It is far more interesting for us others that Irish poets should make Ireland their theme; should stress their European affinities; should ignore our alien affairs; should cultivate our language only in so far as it is a modern lingua franca and, even then, shape it to what Mr. Yeats has called "indomitable Irishry." So when Poems From Ireland (IRISH TIMES, 7/6) does all these things—and fortyone of the paper's poets contribute to a memorable anthology-one admits their right to serve mankind as Irishmen and judges their output accordingly. Their level of accomplishment is admirably high and unstrained, though their work remains disconcerting. The congenial vein is still retrospective; or at best-a notable best-it identifies itself with the eternal Ireland of Brigid and Brendan. To be the heirs of a revolution and lack the élan of a Victor Hugo or a Swinburne augurs sadly for the immediate future. Yet the Irish poet is disappointed and disappointing as magnificently as ever. His technique is his own: so much so that the editor, Mr. DONAGH MacDonagh, can write a perfect Irish ballad to an English tune. And coterie-fashions mean so little to him that there is only one piece of pseudo-Hopkins in the whole delightful book. H. P. E.

#### "How Like an Angel Came I Down . . ."

The mood in which the Poet Laureate recalls his first term in the school-ship Conway in New Chum (HEINEMANN, 9/6) is a dual one, made up in part of that affectionate and slightly wistful retrospect with which those who have passed middle age are apt to look back upon an infinitely removed childhood, in part—the greater part—of the wonder and delight that finds expression in Thomas Traherne's "I nothing in the world did know But 'twas divine." In this case, indeed, the magical transmutation extends itself to the less pleasant aspects of life; beings of a sinister splendour, uttering piratical oaths, stalk across the stage, filling the beholder with a joy none the less real because fearful. A maturer view might indeed see in the magnificent pirates neither more nor less than average greedy small boys, rather unduly given to bullying and horseplay and the bad language accounted manly by the adolescent, and in Potter's "Wanderer," which to Mr. MASEFIELD'S youthful imagination appeared the perfection of maritime beauty, "an ugly great lump of a ship" (to quote an old seaman's description) "that was for ever getting herself into trouble." Mr. MASEFIELD appears indeed to have been-as one would naturally expect-at once an unusually sensitive and what his shipmates would no doubt have termed an unusually "green" new chum;

and his narrative, told with much loving detail, admirably expresses the reactions to be looked for from such a combination of characteristics, in a typical poet's prose. c.f.s.

#### Work for Ladies

Bread has lost caste since the lady ceased to be the "loaf-kneader" and the lord the "loaf-ward." If you are intimate enough with your baker to ask why his bread is so tasteless and soggy he will tell you that the flour is as the big mills send it and that if his loaf were less wet than the other bakers' he would be either ruined or prosecutedfor the stuff has to be sold by weight. Mrs. DORIS GRANT has therefore abundant reason for suggesting—as she does in Your Daily Bread (FABER, 4/6)—that the lady should turn loaf-kneader again. She herself would like to see a wholemeal loaf made of wheat from the family sack, wheat grown without chemicals, fresh-ground by a small electric mill. Pending the attainment of this aim she lists seven mills where you can get genuine flour, and easy directions for making the delicious and sustaining "Grant Loaf." The research that went before this feat and the promising experiments in diet that follow, together with Sir Albert Howard's chapter on "The Soil Grows the Man," more than justify the contention of Lord Teviot's foreword that "this fine book should be in every home."

#### Henry W. Nevinson

In his introduction to Visions and Memories (OXFORD University Press, 10/6), a selection from the prose and Verse writings of Henry W. Nevinson, Professor GILBERT MURRAY narrates how Nevinson, after involving himself in a brawl at a suffrage meeting, called on a friend and, throwing himself into a chair, exclaimed: "Why do other people stop making fools of themselves by about seventeen, while I go on till I am sixty?" Probably there was not much real dissatisfaction with himself in this exclamation. Movement and excitement were essential to Nevinson, who between 1897 and the end of the last war was one of the most widely travelled special correspondents of his time. Politically he was a Liberal, by temperament a romantic. His ideal man would probably have been a mixture of Gladstone and Byron, but if he had had to choose between the two he would certainly have preferred Byron. His writing has the characteristics belonging to such an outlook on life. Goethe is to him not only a man of insatiable curiosity but also of adventurous spirit. He approves ¡Yeats's desire to seem "though I die old, a foolish passionate man." He prefers the man "whose talk is of bullocks" to the sage who regards such a man as unfit for responsible position in the community. He even allows himself to be carried away by the Futurists, the literary predecessors of Mussolini, and writes, in 1914, of a future age in which he sees "magnificent and adventurous women, virile, gigantic, devoid of shame, loathing effeminacy, giving the breast to superb and violent infants. The best essays in this book are those which narrate his personal experiences, in South Africa at the time of the Boer War, in Upper Savoy where he met Ruskin when an old man, in the Greek war against Turkey nearly fifty years ago.

#### Both Sides of the Picture

At the end of the last war Mr. Percy Brown, newly-released from a German prison, had choice of two occupations—the joiner's bench or Fleet Street. His book, Almost in Camera (Hollis and Carter, 15/-), gives us the result of that choice. His first big scoop as a Press

photographer was—"a nice quiet job, the Peace Conference, which wrote the script for the world's greatest drama, now showing." The last adventure in photography he describes was his "covering" of Sir Oswald Mosley's big meeting at Olympia where, after seeing two women dragged out by the hair and a would-be rescuer kicked in the stomach, he was himself set upon by thugs and saved only by his own rage and the help of three "free Englishmen." In between there are descriptions of journeys all over Europe. The book is unpretentiously written, is full of human stories, and presents a good case for the cameraman whose life, at times luxurious, at times dangerous, is never easy and demands so many different loyalties.

B. E. B.

#### Points for the Peace Conference

Mr. Wilson Harris has written what he terms an "entirely unambitious" little book entitled Problems of the Peace (CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 3/6) in which he deals with some of the difficulties facing any future Peace Conference. He confines himself, naturally, to the European side of the war—quite sufficient, we may all agree, for the present. Where is the said Conference to be held? At Geneva, he decides. And what interpretation are we to put on certain clauses of the Atlantic Charteras, for example, that there should be no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned? The problem of Poland in this respect will obviously be very complicated. Then Austria, recovering her independence, should get back the Southern Tyrol. And there will clearly be difficulties in the Balkans. Shall Albania be permitted to emerge again as an independent state, with a population less than that of Birmingham? What is to be done about Libya? But the supreme test of the Conference must be the settlement with Germany, in which somehow a just mean is to be discovered between sentimentalism and vindictiveness.





# Close-Up

ANY writer who calls his book "An ABC of—" or "An Intelligent Man's Guide to—" is fairly certain to increase my account at the bookseller's. I cannot resist things put into nutshells. Mr. C. K. Ogden's book The ABC of Psychology appealed to me immensely as soon as I saw it. The price was right (Pelican, 9d.), the title was right author was right—only a practical psychologist could think up such an effective title.

A first inspection of the book showed several photographs of apes and chimpanzees and one of Arnold Bennett. Anyone familiar with the brighter periodicals would assume, as I did, that the juxtaposition was intended and loaded with meaning. I was glad to find that it was not. The only thing at all remarkable about the novelist's otherwise homely face was the dotted line bisecting it down the middle. I learned that this face had been chosen as a good example of the asymmetrical—"... the reader may imagine on the right-hand side of the dotted line the penetrating humorist who created The Card and on the other side the reflective artist whose Old Wives' Tale remains a landmark in literature."

I imagined for all I was worth but

without success. Once, it is true, after a long study of the left side of the photograph, I thought I noticed a slight twitching of the eyebrow—but that was all. Except for the fact that the moustache was trimmed rather roughly in one place I could find no real difference between left and right.

From Arnold Bennett it was but a short step to the mirror. For a second I hardly dared to look at the picture before me, remembering that "insanity is often indicated by a cocking of one eyebrow." All was well, however. With my fountain-pen I marked dots from my old hair line down my nose to the point of my chin. Then I made a complete inventory of my blemishes. The wrinkles went like this:

	Left	Right
Main Channels	 3	3
Consequents	 2	1
Obsequents	 3	7
Subsequents	 11	8
	-	
	19	, 19

Apart from an incipient tributary in the left cheek the parity was perfect. I was regrettably symmetrical.

I was regrettably symmetrical.

Miss Bosworth, my secretary, distrusts statistics. She maintains that my right profile reveals a man who knows a good bit of docketing when he sees it and that the left profile hints at poetry and emotional starvation. Miss Bosworth is a clever girl.

What about you, gentle reader, are you a lop-sided genius? Or are you average and symmetrical? Obviously the opinion of your friends counts for something but it should not be relied on exclusively. There are several tests you can make yourself. Try these two:

1. Can you insert a finger between your hat and your head just above your ears? If so (on one side only) you are obviously asymmetrical and might well ask for a rise. If digital insertion is possible on both sides the hat is either a poor fit or it belongs to someone else.

2. Are you frequently mistaken for other people in the street? If so it may be that one side of your face is commonplace. That side, very obviously, should be the side for your pipe and for any cuts you care to make while shaving.

But even if every test and every opinion fails there is no need for gloom. Mr. Ogden's book goes on to say "A different type of genius is found, though very rarely, in unified personalities with complete facial symmetry..."

symmetry . . ."
Yes, Mr. Ogden is a very fine psychologist.

# A Christmas Epysode

By Smith Minor

EST after what I am going to tell you hapened, Green said to me, "Young Smith, are we both

dippy?"

Not both," I said.

"There are times, young Smith," he said, "when one nead not be funny."
"I wasn't being funny," I said, "I

meant it."

"Oh, then why shuoldn't we both be dippy?" he said.

"Well, one of us might be easily," I said, "but if we both were, that wuold be what's called a coyncidunce." "What is a coyncidunce?" he said.

I hapened to know, jest having learnt how to spell it, and they give you the meanings at the same time.
"A coyncidunce," I said, "is when

two things you don't expeckt hapen together, like, say, well, if two poeple stoop to pick up something a woman has dropped and bump their heads. It's also called a notable concurance of events.'

Note. This may surprise you, but I hapen to have a very good memory for things like this up to one week. End of note.

"Then it can hapen?" said Green. "It must be able to," I said, "or wuold there be the word?"

"Then why shuoldn't we be a coyncidunce?" he said.

"I see what you mean," I said.
"So are we both dippy?" he said.
"Proberly yes," I said.
And what follows is why, thouh

acktually it came before. That is, it came before to us, thouh it will come after to you.

Well, anyhow, once a year Green and I have an afternoon of Xmas Shopping together, that is if we have anything to shop with. We don't know exacktly why we do it, exepting that we did it one year, and next year we said shall we do it again, like one dose, and so it went on, like things do. As a matter of fact, now we've grown rather fond of it in a way and mean to go on doing it all our lives untill we are old men, saying we ever become old men, and saying our wives will let us, saying we have wives, and the only year that we cuold of done it that we didn't was last year, when Green had Mumphs. But this year,

"Being neither broke nor ill, Thouh not a lot was in the till,"

we did it again as ushuel, with the result the reader is about to learn.

We had already bought most of our presents, becorse we don't wait for each other before we begin, but Green still had four presents to get with three-and-tenpence to get them with and I still had seven to get with twoand twopence, so the posision, you might say, was un morceaux grim. We always give as many presents as we can, becorse the more you give one year the more you get the next. That is, if the poeple remember, wich mind you one can't count on.

Following our ushuel plan, as they say, we desided not to buy anything for an hour, but to spend it (the hour) going into the shops where the shoppoeple don't swooop on you like eagels and you can get the lie of the land. We didn't go into the same shops, becorse when we shop together we always begin by seperating. You see, in this way you cover dubble as many shops in the hour as you would if you didn't, it was Green's idea, and you meat afterwords at some donné place

(that's "given place," if you don't speak French), and tell each other of anything good you have found. Well, anyhow, at the end of the hour all I had found that seamed worth mensioning was packets of rather querious envelops and all Green had found was cards of buttons. We felt a bit depressed.

But sudenly, wile we were wondering weather the envelops and the buttons wuold be liked by those who had to have them, one has to think of that, we spotted a very old man standing against a wall, he looked about ninetynine, with a basket of coloured things wich at first we didn't know what they were, but wich when you got closer turned out to be painted pine-combs with, honestly, quite good faces.

"I say, what about these?" I said. "They seam to me first-rate," said

"You can't get away from it," I said.

"Did you make them yourself?" he



De

said, not to me this time, but to the old man.

The old man didn't anwser, he seamed to be asleep, so one cuold examine him. You cuold hardly see his face for hair, Green swore he hadn't shaved scince he was a baby, his toes came out of his boots, and if you'd ofered the suit he was wearing to a scarecrow, honestly the scarecrow wuold of said no. Somehow, though it was interesting, it made you feal a bit, well, uncomfortable.

"Do you supose we'll ever be like that?" I said.

"I don't think anyone else cuold be like that," said Green.

"You never know," I said. I hapen to have thort a good deal about the fuchure.

"That's true," he said. "You start out with fair hopes."

"And, lo! what hapens!" I said.

"We'd better make sure he isn't dead," he said, and so he asked him again, a bit more loudly, "I say, old chap, did you make these yourself?"

This time the old man opened his eyes, and stared at us as if we were a long way off. As a matter of fact, we weren't, but he was, and it took him severel seconds to come back. When we thort he'd done it, Green asked him again, for the third time, and now he anwsered, you cuold only jest hear him: "Aye, I made 'em."

"They're jolly good," I said.
I'd of said it if they weren't, but

they were.
"I've walked ten miles with 'em, and I ain't sold not one," he said.

"How much are they?" said Green. "One shillinhe began to anwser, and then, all of a suden, he sort of swaid, and if Green and I hadn't quickly got on each side of him,

he'd have been flop on the ground!
"I say, are you all right?" I said. I grant you that was silly, becorse of corse he wasn't all right, but you always get what I said, not what wuold of been better if I had.

"I'll be all right in a minit," he said.

"You want a cup of tea," said Green. "Praps I'll be able to get one presenly," he said.

"No, you want one now," said Green. "I cuold do with it," he said, his voice getting feinter and feinter.

"Then come along," said Green.
"No, wait a minit," I said, "what about the basket?"

You see it was a big basket, how he had carried it ten miles who knew, and even if we cuold carry it into the restorant, woold they let us? And yet to leave it where it was, woold that be

"Scince some there are who, lo! will

The oldest man in the oldest suit"? In the end we worked out that Green being a bit stronger than me, he generelly winning seven wressles out of ten, shuold take the old man to the restorant and give him the cup of tea, and that I shuold stay with the basket.

Well, off they went, Green jest maniging to hold the old man up, leaving me with the basket and my thorts, wich I tried to make worth wile, as one dose at Xmas. Most of them weren't worth wile, but I was jest getting one that seamed might be, it beginning, "If you are sorry for a hungry man you see, why shuoldn't you be jest as sorry for one you don't see, say in China, he's jest as hungry, when a fat woman stopped and said,

"I think I'll have one of those." "What?" I said, this time I being the one who was a long way off.
"How much are they?" she said.

"A shilling," I said.

"I'll take two," she said, and took them and gave me two shillings.

Before I'd got over it, becorse it makes you feal a bit funny to be taken for a street-halker when you aren't, two girls came along, and one with rather nice teeth said, "Look!"

"I expeckt they cost a lot," said the other one.

"Only a shilling," I said.

"Did you make them?" said the one with the teeth.

"No, an old man who's ill did," I

"And you're selling them for him?" said the other one.

"I seam to be," I said.

Beleive it or not, they bort four!

Well, as I'd begun, I thort I might go on, and so when the next poeple came by, they were three men in top hats, I called out, "Funny faces." They didn't buy any, they seamed anoyed, but the next person did, it was a nurse with a pramb, and as I now kept on calling "Funny faces" quite a lot of poeple stopped, with the upshott that by the time Green and the old man came back I had sold twenty!!

The old man looked better, thouh still wobbly, and when I told him what I'd done, honestly I thort he was going to cry.

"You mean you've sold twenty, young gentelman?" he said.

"Yes," I said.

"Why, that's twenty-five bob," he

"What?" I said.

"Ain't that right, at one-and-three?" he said.

"Oh," I said.

The garstly thing that had hapened was this. When he'd said the price was one shilling (see back to wherever he said it) he hadn't quite finished, and before he'd had time to add the threepence he'd swaid and gone flop. Of corse he didn't know I didn't know, so, well, cuold one let him down, Green agreeing that one cuoldn't when I took him a little way off and put it to him. Luckerly he still had 2/10 left after paying for the old man's tea, this costing a shilling with buns, and so with what he had left, and my 2/2, well, that jest made it.

Of corse, it meant that eleven poeple won't get Xmas presents now who'd been going to, but as they didn't know they'd been going to we hope it won't matter.

Anyhow, now you know why we both think we're both dippy.

Bere ends Mr. Punch's Two

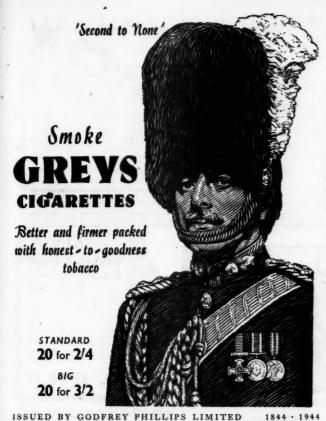


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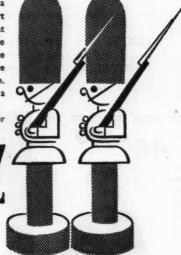
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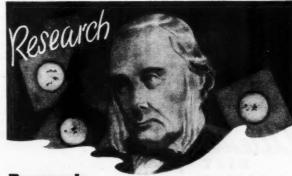


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W. SYMINGTON & CO. LTD., MARKET HARBOROUGH.



three things: special steel, a fine cutting edge and a good temper. All three are found at their best in Sheffield, the 'home of the cutting edge'. All three combine to make Laurel the perfect blade. Pay what you will, you cannot get a better blade than

The Good-tempered Sheffield Blade Made by George Lawrence Ltd. of Sheffield.



#### MILKY WAY IHT



There are three stages in the making of evaporated milk. Stage one is Strawberry (calved in February now giving three and a half gallons). Stage two is a six feet wide double coil of stainless steel tube. Stage three is what you buy over the counter. The

Talbot-Stead Tube Company was responsible for charming the steel tubes into the intricate shape shown in stage two and it is not the first time manufacturers have watched their difficulties evaporate through the channels of stainless steel tubes.

An advertisement published by (1) Tube Investments Limited for

#### TALBOT-STEAD TUBE COMPANY LTD

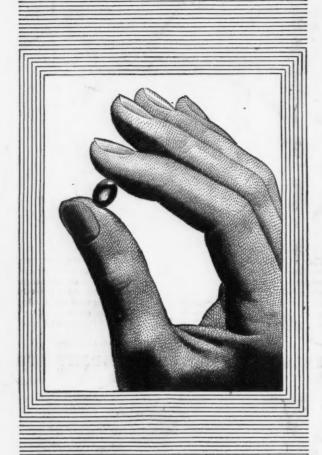
GREEN LANE . WALSALL



Available only within a limited area until

after the

cream crackers



#### EXTRA VITAMINS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH

colds and influenza cannot be resisted when your diet is deficient in vitamin A: the daily dose of Crookes' ensures you the necessary amount. Adults cannot keep healthy and children cannot grow up with straight bones and strong teeth without sufficient vitamin D: the daily dose of Crookes' keeps your supply well above the safety level.

This extra supply of vitamins A and D will work wonders in building up your resistance and stamina through this sixth wartime winter.

### CROOKES' HALIBUT OIL

OBTAINABLE ONLY FROM CHEMISTS

Capsules — per bottle of 100 — 8/6 Liquid — per phial — enough for 16 days 2/-



#### 'NAVAL ENGAGEMENT'

'Congratulations. Brilliant naval action. Splice the main brace.' Such was the message flashed by Divisional Headquarters to a squadron of the Brigade of Guards after an armoured car patrol of the Household Cavalry had sunk at Nijmegen Bridge three of a string of four enemy barges. (vide The Times, October 9th, 1944.)

It has been confirmed that the armoured cars were DAIMLER.



THE DAIMLER COMPANY LIMITED . LONDON AND COVENTRY

